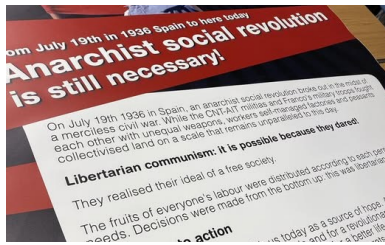




WHAT IS ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM?

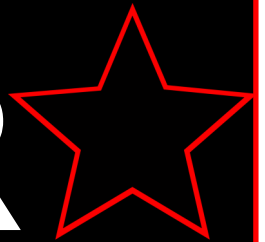


ANARCHIST SOCIAL REVOLUTION - STILL NECESSARY



ORGANISE! IWA Statement on far-right, racism, fascism & bigotry

BLACK STAR



IN DEFENCE OF THE CNT-AIT



On the 28th July our comrades in the Madrid Local Federation of the CNT-AIT based in Tirso de Molina released the following statement:

Eviction Notice Issued Against the CNT-AIT Madrid Premises in Plaza Tirso de Molina

URGENT – Last week, we were notified of the outcome of the lawsuit filed by CNT-CIT against the *Madrid Local Federation of CNT-AIT*: we have been given one month to voluntarily vacate the historic premises in Tirso de Molina.

Despite our complete distrust of bourgeois justice, we could not help but be shocked by such a shameful ruling, especially since the judge issued it without even giving us the chance to defend ourselves. They want to throw us out of the very premises where we grew up as militants - without allowing us to speak at any point in the process. And to make matters worse, we are also ordered to pay the legal costs.

How did we get here? A brief summary

Historically, the CNT has always had two "tendencies" - with many shades of grey between them: one focused exclusively on syndicalism, and another with a stronger anarchist orientation. Over many years of commitment and struggle - since 1910, which is saying a lot - there have been times of greater or lesser coexistence, and also periods of rupture, like the split that led to the creation of the current CGT.

In recent years, various events have unfolded that have resulted in two CNTs today: CNT-CIT, which for years has prioritised a questionable model of growth and expansion at the expense of the traditional principles, tactics, and goals of anarcho-syndicalism; and CNT-AIT, which continues to uphold those values.

Above all, it must be said that CNT-AIT, as anarcho-syndicalists, have never ceased to fight for the emancipation of our class and for the improvement of our rights. A simple look at the many conflicts our unions have taken on in recent years - without delegating anything to professional unionists - is proof of this.

IN DEFENCE OF THE CNT-AIT

... continued from the front page



CNT-CIT, on the other hand, has increasingly become professionalised and hierarchical, turning unionism from a grassroots responsibility into a service model that is incompatible with true worker self-management. This is evident in the fact that they now employ paid staff, which completely betrays the fundamental principles of anarcho-syndicalism.

We'll go into more detail on that soon. For now, it suffices to say that this tendency gained strength in the CNT-CIT, and led to many anarchist-leaning unions either leaving the organisation or being expelled for denouncing or resisting this reformist shift - including our own case, now seven years ago.

Since then, the Madrid Local Federation has continued to fill our historic premises at Tirso de Molina 5 with life and struggle. And we say "ours" because it was the anarcho-syndicalist militants of Madrid who bought this space and have maintained it all these years with their own dues - not the CNT, with its hoarded union assets.

But for CNT-CIT, it wasn't enough to expel the unions that stood in their way. Their ultimate goal is our total eradication. And for that, they're willing to use every tool they can: lawsuits in the Audiencia Nacional, demanding enormous sums of money; and even sending riot police to evict us from our premises - which, as

everyone (especially CNT-CIT) knows, we will not leave voluntarily.

Acknowledging our mistakes

Given the situation, we must acknowledge our own errors:

First, having turned to bourgeois courts in an attempt to slow the collapse by filing counter-lawsuits to mitigate the legal damages we're now enduring (though we never requested prison sentences, monetary compensation, or police evictions - as CNT-CIT has done);

Second, having naively believed it might be possible to reach some sort of agreement that would guarantee the well-being of all involved - if not with CNT-CIT as a whole, then at least with individual unions within it;

And third, having even considered engaging with those who align themselves with power by turning to the very legal systems that have historically caused us so much harm. All of this is far from our values and from the logic we live by.

Dialogue abandoned without explanation

We directly address here the CNT-CIT SOV of Madrid, which took the initiative to open a dialogue with us in the hopes of finding a solution to the conflict over the premises. However, that dialogue was abruptly cut off on their end, without any explanation. We suspect this

was due to orders from above, not the will of their own assembly. But we will not accept this silently. If they've chosen to abandon dialogue, the least they can do is say so openly and act with dignity.

At our last meeting between delegations from both unions, we informed them that we were working on a proposal aimed at finding a solution not only for the Tirso premises, but for all the spaces that CNT-CIT is trying to seize from CNT-AIT. These are spaces that serve not only as anarcho-syndicalist headquarters, but also as centres for broader social struggles, for spreading anarchist culture and ideas, and as refuge for people brutalized or persecuted by police and the State.

Why such insistence on seizing our spaces?

It's very simple: the leaders of CNT-CIT believe that if they take away our spaces - which is still far from certain - our organisation will vanish. But they're wrong. Even if things become more difficult, we will never stop fighting for the new world we carry in our hearts.

At CNT-AIT, we will continue practicing anarcho-syndicalism, no matter what. And we will remain the only horizontal and revolutionary union organisation with real presence left in the Spanish State. For that reason, we will stand firm against anyone who seeks to destroy us - whether it's the State, the bosses, or CNT-CIT - and we'll do so with our usual weapons: mutual aid and direct action.

A call for solidarity

Turning to courts and police to evict active union spaces is something that should compel all social and political collectives - whether anarchist or not - to take a clear position. That's why we are calling on you to stand in solidarity with us, to refuse to collaborate with CNT-CIT in their authoritarian and repressive actions, and to help us resist any future eviction attempts.

We are not merchandise to be bought or sold.

We are, and will always be, what we choose to be - not what others want us to become.

Solidarity with the CNT-AIT?

In September 2024 Organise! IWA addressed an open letter to members of the IWW in Ireland asking them to condemn the attacks of the CNT-CIT on our comrades in the CNT-AIT. We did so as the IWW WISERA (Wales, Ireland, Scotland, England Regional Association) had joined the same international as the CNT-CIT, the International Confederation of Labour in English, in 2021 (ratified in 2024).

While the IWW Ireland never responded to us directly, the situation, particularly the threat of prison hanging over the heads of comrades in the CNT-AIT and the use of the courts against them, resulted in the IWW WISERA democratically reaching the decision to put out a rather weak statement that none-the-less condemned the actions of the CNT-CIT.

The **Statement on CNT Lawsuit** stated:

This situation [what they referred to as an ongoing situation] has developed into a legal case which could result in fellow syndicalists receiving incredibly large fines or jail time. As a member of the ICL-CIT, (International Confederation of Labour - Confederación Internacional de Trabajo) we are incredibly concerned about these potential punishments. As a revolutionary syndicalist union, we abhor state violence, especially when this state violence threatens those who are trying to build a better world. We have previously shown solidarity towards Suiza Six, and the jail time they faced. It would be hypocritical if we didn't show the same solidarity towards those in the CNT-AIT who are threatened with jail time.

Hoping that the CNT-AIT and CNT-CIT could settle their differences through conciliation rather than "state violence" the statement concluded:

Nothing will prevent our expressions and acts of solidarity with revolutionary syndicalists and workers in struggle with

the capitalist system everywhere. However, solidarity should not and does not mean that we don't hold to account our comrades when they misstep and go against the important principles of our movement. In this instance we feel compelled to call out this use of state violence against workers.

These important principles were to be short-lived. Blind 'solidarity' with the CNT-CIT and it's actions were more important to some in WISERA. Despite the statement being agreed in accord with the democratic processes of the IWW outlandish accusations of outsiders interfering with that internal democracy were made. Disinformation was spread (particularly by a notoriously sectarian joint member of WISERA and the CNT-CIT) while WISERA's joint International Secretary, based in Ireland, resigned in protest at this defence of principles. Another vote was held (much in the style of the Irish state when referenda didn't go their way) and the statement was quietly disappeared from the IWW website in time for ratification of their membership of the ICL-CIT.

As part of the IWA Days of Solidarity with our comrades in the CNT-AIT, Organise! IWA held a solidarity action at the Spanish Civil War monument in Belfast on Sunday, 3 November. In light of the latest development in the attack on our comrades we restate our appeal to members of the IWW, anarchists and activists in the labour movement to condemn this action against the CNT-AIT - albeit an appeal that should not have to be made given the injustice of the situation.

We also restate our solidarity with the Suiza 6, members of the CNT-CIT imprisoned by the Spanish state for daring to organise against their employer. Their imprisonment is part of a broader and deeply worrying attack by the Spanish authorities on the right of workers to organise and take strike action which must be resisted.

Those who attack us will not win.

BELFAST REMEMBERS



ANARCHIST SOCIAL REVOLUTION SPAIN - 89 YEARS ON

Anarcho-Syndicalists, our comrades and friends gathered in the A Centre, Belfast to commemorate the 89th anniversary of the beginning of the Spanish Revolution, the great birth of hope and liberation for the world in the midst of the fascism and war of the 1930s.

Besides some of our own collections, we also had material kindly donated by the *Walking Museum of the Spanish Civil War in Barcelona* and visitors filed in on Saturday, 19 July to view the range of images and artefacts documenting various aspects of the revolution.

The displays formed the backdrop for a talk later in the afternoon facilitated by Organise! IWA on why Anarchist social revolution is still necessary, which ably set out the background, history and politics of the Spanish Revolution and kickstarted a wider discussion on different elements of Anarcho-Syndicalism and events in Spain.

The liberation of women, the collectivisation of land and the self-management of factories and workplaces by the workers themselves still stands as our hope and inspiration for a different world - one without capitalism, fascism, war and authority and one in which our anarchist and anarcho-syndicalist comrades in the territories held by the Spanish state still provide an example to the world.



Organise! IWA statement: On the far-right, fascism, racism and bigotry.

Last Saturday (19th July 2025) a mob of teenagers left a man stripped naked and barely standing in Tallaght. He was lucky to be rescued by a woman from the area. This is not the first attack of it's kind in Tallaght, carried out by the same gang who spread false malicious rumours about the men they have attacked. Council houses have been set alight in Mayo following unfounded rumours they would be used to accommodate asylum seekers. Grown men in Moygashel constructed a bonfire with an effigy of migrants in a boat on top of it with the demand 'Stop the Boats'. Racists and fascists have demonstrated across Ireland and in the wake of their demonstrations racist attacks have occurred.

On July 5, the Life Institute hosted their annual Rally for Life, which kicked off shortly after CATU's All-Island Housing Demo. While marching up O'Connell St alongside other left wing groups and trade unions, members of Organise! IWA were aware of many people with signs and t-shirts declaring: "Pray to end abortion," "Life Will Win," "Stop Aborting Our Future" and "pro-life for mothers and babies." Speakers at the rally included Aontú's Paul Lawless, Bernadette Smith from Precious Life, and Niamh Uí Bhriain



from the Life Institute. Groups such as 40 Days for Life, Youth Defence, Youth for Life NI, and various "pro Life" groups around the country alongside the aforementioned Precious Life sponsored the rally.

While not spotted there himself, far-right activist and politician Malachy Steenson was promoting the rally heavily in the lead up to July 5. In attendance on the day, however, were members of the Irish Freedom Party, the National Party, and Justin Barrett's new party, Clann Éireann. Clann Éireann were particularly conspicuous decked out in their Nazi-inspired paramilitary gear standing behind a banner reading "THEY WANT OUR UNBORN ERASED AND OUR RACE

REPLACED." Beneath this was the famous quote from MP and Provisional IRA hunger striker, Bobby Sands "our revenge shall be the laughter of our children." Let us be clear – if you allow Neo-Nazis to brazenly and openly participate in your anti-choice rally, it becomes a Neo-Nazi rally.

But we in Organise! IWA expect little else from the hatemongers who spout their anti-choice bullshit. Not content with attempting to erode women's rights, some of these groups have also been campaigning against LGBTQIA+ rights, arguing that it goes against traditional family values and the sanctity of life from contraception. Ireland has thankfully come a long way since the days when Church and State were inseparable. In 2015, Ireland became the first country to legalise same-sex marriage by popular vote. In 2018, abortion was legalised through the repeal of the Eighth Amendment. In the North abortion was decriminalised over the heads of our local politicians by Westminster in 2019 but the Assembly is still not funding adequate provision for those needing abortions. While work still needs to be done in relation to safe access to abortion in Ireland, anti-choice neanderthals would rather roll back the years to the days of mother and baby homes and Magdalene Laundries where so called "fallen women" were locked away.

In the North of Ireland, the Social



Democratic and Labour Party maintain an anti-abortion stance, though as far back as 2018 have “granted” members the freedom to vote how they choose around abortion. Sinn Féin’s Michelle O’Neill has previously accused the DUP along with the Ulster Unionist Party of blocking access to abortion services. However, while Sinn Féin claim to support full abortion rights for women across the island of Ireland, they have come under scrutiny multiple times over allegations that they are refusing to oppose abortion restrictions. And let us not forget David Cullinane, health spokesperson for Sinn Féin, who spoke out in support of the UK supreme court ruling that the terms “man,” “woman,” and “sex” are defined solely by a person’s biological sex. Cullinane announced this was “common sense,” and claimed this should be introduced in Ireland, before rolling back on his statements. This was seen as being too little, too late, however, and the party has been banned from attending Trans and Intersex Pride. And consider also the Democratic Unionist Party, the second largest party in the Northern Ireland Assembly, describe themselves as “unashamedly pro-life,” opposing abortion and assisted suicide. DUP politician Carla Lockhart describes every abortion as being “not just statistics; each number represents a precious life lost.”

Alongside claims that Ireland is full, the far right also like to claim that they are opposing IPAS centres and migration because they are protecting women and children. But their words and actions would lead us to believe otherwise. Take for example the following misogynist statement made by independent councillor for Newbridge, Tom McDonnell after his successful election: “we’ve great women and we want them breeding.” Or Andy Heasman, who lost access to his children and had a restraining order taken out against him by her due to domestic abuse. Or former leader of the DUP, Jeffrey Donaldson, who is facing prosecution along with his wife on historic child sexual abuse charges. Dundalk Says No also use a soundsystem at their protests which was purchased with donations received from Tristan Tate.

Tate, alongside his brother Andrew, faces prosecution for 21 charges including human trafficking, rape and actual bodily harm.

As reported by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, abortion and reproductive health have become tools for ethno-nationalist agendas in the 7 years since abortion was legalised. The same groups who try to proclaim “Ireland is full” talk about people migrating to Ireland as a “plantation,” our own version of the “great replacement” conspiracy theory. Abortion and reproductive health are seen as an existential threat to the white race.

Much has been made of the links between Ulster Loyalism, British Neo-Nazi groups and Irish anti-immigrant protesters. Tommy Robinson has links with many of Ireland’s far right agitators. And members of the Coolock Says No group last year travelled to Belfast to participate in anti-migrant protests which sprang up in the aftermath of the UK’s Southport riots and numerous arson attacks and anti-migrant protests in the South. A split occurred in the Coolock Says No group after those who travelled to Belfast were photographed in a notorious Loyalist bar waving their tricolours alongside others carrying loyalist flags and Union Jacks.

As recently as July 7, Loyalists such as Mark Sinclair have attended anti-immigration marches in Dublin’s city centre. The rally, called by failed Kerry

election candidate Michelle Keane gathered at the GPO, before protesters marched to the Dail where they demanded entry. Keane had also invited other prominent far right activists like Malachy Steenson, Derek Blighe, the National Party’s Patrick Quinlan and Councillor Gavin Pepper, though none attended. Keane later criticised their non-attendance in a livestream of the event, with Pepper later posting to Twitter/X that he would no longer be participating in City Centre protests due to the presence of people like Sinclair.

However, members of the Irish Republican movement are just as susceptible to being sucked into far right politics. For example, Padraig Óg O’Rourke’s new book, Burn Them Out, details the far right ideology of the likes of W. T. Cosgrave, Ernest Blythe and others who had participated in the Easter Rising of 1916, some of whom would go on to form Cumann Na nGhaedheal.

Perhaps most famously, Eoin O’Duffy, a prominent member of the Ulster IRA during the War of Independence, led the fascist Army Comrades Association, later known as the National Guard and commonly referred to as the Blueshirts. O’Duffy attempted to march on Dublin twice to seize power, emulating his hero Mussolini, and led the Irish Brigade to Spain to fight on the side of Franco. A former IRA Chief of Staff, Seán Russell, openly collaborated with the Nazis during the Second World War.



Organise! IWA statement: On the far-right, fascism, racism and bigotry.



VOLUNTEERS FOR SPAIN

GENERAL O'DUFFY AND
PARTY SAIL FROM
LIVERPOOL

A PARTY of 32 Irishmen, headed by General O'Duffy, sailed from Liverpool on Saturday for Lisbon. General O'Duffy, who, like his men, was dressed in civilian clothes, refused to discuss the intentions and movements of the party, but one member admitted that they were bound for Spain, "to fight for their faith." The majority of the men were under 25, and little luggage was carried. Some of the men are believed to have formerly held rank in the Free State Army, while others are stated to be students. The men came from Dublin overnight in the Lady Munster, which was delayed owing to fog.

"WILL HELP IRISH UNITY."



Another former IRA member, Eamonn MacThomais was also a supporter of the Nazis during the Second World War. However, links between Irish Republicans and far right politics do not end with the climax of the Second World War. The aforementioned Steenson, previously active with both the Worker's Party and the Irish Republican Socialist Party, was expelled over his anti-choice views.

In November 2023, a riot erupted in Dublin City Centre, sparked by the stabbing of a young girl outside a primary school on Parnell Street. Far right misinformation was quick to spread, labelling the attacker an immigrant. Garda vehicles, buses, and a Luas tram were set on fire. One bus driver, a non-national was told to "get out of the bus or we'll kill you," before being attacked by rioters. Multiple shops were looted before rioters were eventually dispersed.

More recently, Ballymena erupted in rioting following the alleged sexual assault of a young girl by two Romanians. Reports indicate that there had been tensions between locals and members of the Roma community prior to the riots. Homes were damaged by fire and cars were set alight, including the car of a Filipino man. As a result of these arson attacks, many in the community were displaced, with some being housed in a former leisure centre. This was subsequently set alight as rioting

spread to other areas in East Antrim and Belfast. Threatened racist attacks were stopped in Beechmount while an anti-immigrant march took place under Tricolours in Newry on Monday 23rd June. The South Ulster Local of Organise! – attended the Newry Against Racism protest in Newry on Sunday 6th July organised as a direct response to racist incidents in the city, and the far right demo that saw a group of racists carrying tricolours parade through the streets declaring 'Newry Says No', claiming "Ireland is for the Irish" and that the city "will not be a sanctuary for illegal immigrants." The distressing reality is that the 'Stop the Boats' sentiments expressed on the Moygashel bonfire is

widespread right across this island. While recent attacks on immigrants across the North have been facilitated and organised by Loyalist paramilitaries these bigots are not alone in their racist and increasingly right-wing politics and actions.

We have seen the rise of the far right elsewhere around the world. Viktor Orbán's pro-family policies, the re-election of Donald Trump and his Project 2025, the rightwing shift of UK Labour under Keir Starmer's leadership.

For this latter reason, we have had difficulty endorsing certain United Against Racism events. Most notably, the counter demo on 26 April 2025 in Dublin. Leaflets handed out in advance of said counter leaned more into liberalism than trying to take any sort of class based approach to bringing people in. Rather, the leaflet seemed to state that people were either racist or anti-racist. There are people with very real concerns around amenities, social housing, deprivation for whom immigration can be seen as a concern, people in areas with very few amenities that have been neglected by the government for decades. It is no mistake that government seek to house immigrants in areas that have already been abandoned and left to rot. We have



seen in places like Coolock how easily government neglect and social deprivation can be taken advantage of by the far right and how they can dominate the narrative. Failing to engage with members of disadvantaged areas around these issues will only serve to drive them the other way. And that an opposition party failed to address the government's policies around immigration and housing is, to us, absolutely mind-blowing. While we feel it is important to attend counter demonstrations against the far right, we cannot endorse United Against Racism's approach. Failing to work collaboratively with other groups only serves to create more division on the Left, thereby weakening any sort of effective counter. Speeches given at some UAR events leave a lot to be desired, and fail to sow a sense of unity across divisions within our class. A recent counter demonstration organised by UAR saw NIPSA come out to condemn the sectarian comments of some speakers. UAR have remained silent – those seeking to sectarianise the struggle against racism and the far right in our society are pursuing a divisive agenda that has no place in our struggle. They need to wise up or fuck off.

That being said, we are in favour of the collaborative, grassroots approach of groups such as Communities Against Racism Ireland and Dublin Communities Against Racism. Both groups are coalitions of community and political activists who work collaboratively to build unity and solidarity against the rise of anti immigrant activity. DCAR in particular have been highly critical of government policy, and have a "boots on the ground" approach to combating the far right.

A similar approach had been taken in the past by anti-fascists in the North of Ireland trying to unite members of the working class against the far right. Members of Organise! IWA, along with the Socialist Party and trade union activists, set up the Fascists Out Campaign in 2004, confronting the White Nationalist Party. The FOC highlighted the deprivation and alienation that sustained far right organisations like the WNP: "the far-right are playing up fears about housing costs,

the lack of social housing, lack of jobs, low wages and deprivation of working-class estates in an effort to scapegoat immigrants for the many problems faced by working-class people... Without addressing racism on a class basis, the roots of racism cannot be tackled!" Areas where the WNP claimed to be active saw increases in racist attacks. The WNP were driven off the streets in Portrush, their propaganda was removed wherever it appeared, we shut down a P.O. Box used by the Ulster Nationalist Party (a WNP name change) in August 2005 and dissuaded venues from putting on neo-nazi gigs for them. The last public activity of the renamed WNP was an attempt to leaflet openly homophobic propaganda around the 2005 Gay Pride parade in Belfast. They were quickly spotted by FOC activists, who had a banner on the parade and activists present along its route on the day. As soon as they realised they had been spotted and that their photos were being taken they ran away. The WNP had been forced out of existence.

This campaign was barely given a mention in O'Rourke's 'Burn Them Out.' In 2009 when Belfast was dubbed "race hate capital of Europe" as Roma families were forced from their homes in south Belfast members of Organise! IWA were on the streets outside the home of those under attack day and night. Most

recently, DCAR members put a lot of effort into countering the anti-immigration D8 Says No group over proposals to extend an IPAS centre on Basin Street. Worth noting is the fact that this centre had operated for 3 years without incident, before D8 Says No became concerned.

Focus needs to be on the fact that racists and bigots would rather blame immigrants for the failings of the government and the effects of capitalism. We have seen in the past how quick the government have been to scapegoat immigrants over the housing crisis, the crisis in the health service. This only feeds the far right narrative, and needs to be consistently challenged and opposed.

As anarcho-syndicalists, Organise! IWA are unequivocally antifascist – we are against racism and against bigotry. We are against nationalism in all its guises. We are against electoral politics, and are critical of counter demonstrations being co-opted by political parties. Our anti-fascism and anti-racism is always based on the need to overcome divisions fostered in our class by capitalists and governments along with the realisation that, in the words of Buenaventura Durutti, "fascism is not to be debated, it is to be destroyed" and that:

No government fights fascism to destroy it. When the bourgeoisie sees that power is slipping out of its hands, it brings up fascism to hold onto their privileges.



What is Anarcho-Syndicalism?



Anarchism is a political theory which advocates for the abolition of hierarchical government, and the organisation of society on a voluntary, cooperative basis. As Bakunin said, *“freedom without socialism is privilege and injustice, socialism without freedom is slavery and brutality.”*

Derived from the French word for Trade Unionism (Syndicalisme), syndicalism seeks to organise workers through industrial unionism and advance demands through strikes and direct action, thereby gaining control of the means of production and the economy at large.

Anarcho-syndicalism seeks to abolish the wage system, overthrow capitalism and establish libertarian communism through worker's control and self-management.

“A system which in every act of its life sacrifices the welfare of large sections of the people, yes, of whole nations, to the selfish lust for power and the economic interests of small minorities must of necessity dissolve all social ties and lead to a constant war of all against all.” – Rudolf Rocker

Whereas as typical trade unions are organised in a top-down fashion, anarcho-

syndicalists believe that union organising can only be effective through bottom up decision making. We believe that any sort of organisation from above is susceptible to becoming co-opted to benefit the whims of the minority. Any sort of meaningful change needs to come from us, the workers, who make up the majority-we decide for ourselves.

Too often we have seen General Secretaries in workplace trade unions

capitulate to the government when *“acting on behalf of the workers.”* We have seen also how well the various iterations of ‘Workers Parties’ have represented us over the years. Not to mention how quickly Labour were forced to capitulate when sharing office with Fine Gael in the South during the austerity years.

“If voting changed anything, they’d make it illegal,” as Emma Goldman famously pointed out.

We organise alongside other militant workers who agree with the aims and principles of anarcho-syndicalism. Initially, these are small groups of workers in the same area or industry, but these eventually grow into proper Locals, which take on normal union functions, such as supporting trade disputes, pickets, etc. At present we have a Local in Belfast, as well as a Local in South Ulster, though we have members throughout Ireland.

With far right politics on the rise globally, we are seeing these sorts of issues and ideas beginning to creep into our workplaces. This needs to be countered at every step - it is only by standing together that we can show these far right bigots their hatred is not welcome in our communities or our workplaces. Like the political elite, the far right want to keep us divided. By standing together in solidarity, we can win.



At present, we are witnessing climate change on a drastic scale. Sea levels are rising, each year sees an increase in environmental and natural disasters, and there are now dead spots in the ocean. Governments around the world are trying to greenwash the problem, acting like Capitalism can treat climate change, rather than being the single biggest cause. Nor do we think that climate change can be fixed by Green Party governments or well-meaning Socialists. There is another way, though. Through defeating Capitalism and abolishing state power, anarcho-syndicalism can push forward with the social and environmental revolution. Libertarian communism is the path to emancipation for all.

"The revolutionary unions, in the view of the anarchists, are not only organs of the struggle against the contemporary structure; they are also the cells of the future society." – Gregori Maximoff.

What do anarcho-syndicalists do?

As anarcho-syndicalists, we are engaged in a number of workplace and community struggles. Examples are as follows:

Working conditions - from issues with pay to working hours to employee health and wellbeing.

Community organising - this includes

issues around housing, environmental concerns, or public services.

Strike and occupation supports - whether that be manning pickets, raising funds, or providing supplies.

Worker support - providing advice and support to individual victimised workers.

Education - on anti-war or anti-fascist issues, climate change, and other issues that affect workers.

Distributing propaganda - producing

bulletins, statements, etc in order to spread the ideas of solidarity, direct action and worker's self-management.

The three principles of anarcho-syndicalism are solidarity, direct action and self-organising. Together we can win!

Like what you read? This leaflet was produced by Organise! Friends of the International Worker's Association. We are active in both the North and the South of Ireland. If you want to learn more, you can read our bulletins, and other propaganda on our website.



Belfast Labour History 100 years ago...



In May 1925, a strike by just over 100 cranimen at Harland and Wolff led to a walk-out of 3,000 men in sympathy and solidarity with the workers.

In a dispute that lasted just over a week and showed the great levels of camaraderie and solidarity in the yards, the cranimen were looking for an increase in pay reflective of longer hours and more work as the construction of the passenger liner, the RMS *Asturias* neared its end. And they won!

Meanwhile...



in Ballymena

Cloughmills shit-kicker, Isaac Adams (pictured top), was in court recently charged with spreading slurry from a tractor on the eve of the Ballymena Pride parade.

Bailed to re-appear this month, the brain-deid culchie fuckwit, may or may not have been responsible for the attempt to ruin our toon's *Pride* event at the end of last month, but the event thankfully went ahead and what a fucking relief it was after the racist hate-fest of early June.

There's another Ballymena - wan of tolerance, love and respect for people wherever they come from and whoever they are, though we might occasionally draw the line at folk fae Broughshane, Cloughmills and Cullybackey!

Pride was a great success and something that was needed for our sanity and sense of belief in the town to be restored.

There's a lot of work to be done and many people have already left the toon, intimidated or in fear and despair. The tension hasn't gone and sadly social media was awash with naked class hatred from people who like to think of themselves as progressives in some way, when some of those charged appeared before the courts. Here's to the holidays and a quieter summer.

HOUSING PROTEST, DUBLIN



Anarcho-syndicalism seeks both to overthrow capitalism and to establish libertarian communism through worker's control and self management. While we view the role of the worker's union as the vehicle for revolutionary change, it is important to point out that anarcho-syndicalists have always stressed that the union must encompass much more than just the workplace. After all, if we want to see the world we wish to create fully realised, we need to organise, educate and agitate in our communities.

In recent years, we have seen the housing crisis in this country worsen, with demand far outweighing supply. Government policy has seen increasing numbers of apartment blocks being built to placate overseas vulture funds, rather than building the social and affordable housing that is so sorely needed. Month on month, the numbers of people homeless and in emergency accommodation increases, rents continue to rise and landlords continue to threaten illegal and no notice evictions against renters in precarious tenancy agreements.

In a recent issue of *Class War*, we reported on what seemed like some small progress on accommodation for International Protection Applicants. Since the writing of that piece, the government announced a U-turn on the Crowne Paints site in Coolock after months of unrest. It is the opinion of Organise! IWA that the government have handed the far right a victory, by literally giving them what they wanted. North and South many are sleeping rough as a result of a system that prioritises profit for landlords over the needs of human beings. Housing has been used by the far right in an attempt to sew and intensify racist division in working class communities and this echoes

pronouncements in the mainstream media and by politicians about a lack of resources. It helps both the far right and those in power in Stormont, the Dail and Westminster if migrants are blamed for the lack of housing rather than landlords and their friends in government. Over 13% of Westminster MPs, 20% of Stormont MLAs and 20% of TDs in the Dáil are landlords. All the major parties get hefty donations from landlords. In short, while the far right are permitted to control the narrative 'our' politicians are either profiting from this directly or are bought and paid for by landlords. Those in power are more interested in turning a profit than in tackling an ever worsening housing crisis.

CATU (Community Action and Tenants Union) called a housing demo for 5th July in Dublin. In light of the demands CATU have set out (which include the reinstatement of the eviction ban, an end to the takeover of AirBnBs, a ban on vulture funds, and an end to direct provision), Organise! IWA took the decision to endorse and attend the demo.

We fully agree with CATU's approach of direct action against evictions, and we encourage direct democracy and grassroots organising on housing. Why should we sit back and wait for greedy politicians and political parties who are only out for their own ends to implement the changes we wish to see? For it is only through mutual cooperation that we can hope to bring about the changes we want.

Organise! IWA were proud to stand alongside community activists from all over Ireland, challenging the far right narrative on housing and drawing attention to the failings of the government both North and South. Proposed social housing developments have been abandoned after huge sums of money were spent on planning. We in Organise! IWA feel that there needs to be a new proactive working-class housing movement organised to take on landlords and government North and South or else nothing will ever change. We are committed to working towards a grassroots movement in order to ensure that everyone has access to proper housing.

"We carry a new world here, in our hearts. That world is growing this minute." – Buenaventura Durruti.

STEEL AND METAL WORKERS' STRIKES



The strikes of the metal workers in Murcia and Cartagena have been suspended after almost a month's action amidst the usual bun fight between the yellow unions, the CCOO and the UGT, over who is the most shit. Meanwhile, militants in the industry which supplies Navantia, the state-owned shipbuilders who also now own Harland and Wolff, anxious to continue the struggle have been sidelined as the union bosses and industry bosses get together for talks.

The dispute in Murcia goes back to November 2023 with further protests back in March and May last year and then an indefinite strike was called last month over the creation of a specific bonus for shipyard workers and the equalisation of working conditions in auxiliary companies. In Cartagena, the indefinite strike of 17 June which saw clashes between the cops and strikers, several arrests and even some workers on hunger strike, was suspended on 17 July. 'No es derrota, es estrategia' ('this is not a defeat, it's a strategy'), one of the union organisers declared as workers returned to the yard on Monday, 21 July. Where have we heard that before?

In our wee part of the world last month metal workers were also on strike with a few days' of action by Tata Steel workers at their Lisburn plant. Process, machine operators and HGV drivers employed at the plant took a 48 hour action last month following a 100% vote in favour of a strike at the 30-strong factory. Tata Steel, which is owned by an Indian multinational company, a subsidiary of Tata Group, India's largest business conglomerate, was once known as British Steel, state-owned from 1967 to 1988 when it was privatised

and sold off to the Dutch firm which became Corus. Responsible for British steel plants in Port Talbot (which Tata announced in 2016 it was selling, switching off the blast furnaces last year) and Scunthorpe (sold off to the Chinese in 2020), Tata now operates smaller steel manufacturing plants. However, the company still retains a large workforce across the UK, the poorest paid of which is, unsurprisingly, in Northern Ireland.

Recent changes to the national minimum wage actually impacted negatively on the workers in Lisburn, who began their campaign for fair pay soon after. Whether or not Tata have any interest in remaining here long term, this dispute needs to be resolved and we wish the Tata Lisburn workers all the best in their struggle to be treated with dignity and equality.

More worrying, however, is the fall-out from the strikes of our comrades in Spain against Navantia and its ancillary companies. The owners have shown nothing but complete contempt for their workers, CNT-AIT members among them, and have been happy to see the state deployed to batter and harass the strikers seeking basic equality and fair treatment. What have the men and women of Queen's Island got in store for them if this is how they treat workers in Spain?

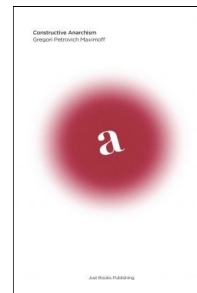
The newly appointed boss at the yard is called Donato Martinez and much is being made by him of the £2 billion investment in the firm, having landed lucrative (for some), MoD contracts, which were promised as part of Navantia's buy-out which cost the Spanish company, £93 million. Harland and Wolff are set to build three Royal Navy supply ships as part of a Fleet Solid Support programme, the details and costs of which the government is keeping quiet about. However, Navantia did not take on the debts of Harland and Wolff and earlier this year an administrator was brought in to wind up four companies formerly active in the yard. It's unlikely creditors' claims of nearly £50 million will ever be paid back.

The inclusion of Belfast in the MoD deal was obviously the British Labour Party's attempt to shore up the executive and the wider peace process (does that even still exist?!), but it's still a concern as to whether there is long-term support for the shipyard, especially under Navantia's stewardship. Our comrades and workers in Cartagena and Murcia have shown the way to workers in Belfast and we extend our admiration, support and solidarity to them.

Just Books Publishing



Just Books Publishing, set up by the Just Books Collective, has so far published its first two titles.



The first is a reprint of Gregori Maximoff's *Constructive Anarchism*, to mark the 100th year of existence of the International Workers Association (IWA) the Anarcho-Syndicalist

international founded in Berlin in 1922.

isbn 9781739723705

£7.99



The second title, now with a new cover, is Nick Heath's *The Idea*.

Anarchist Communism: Past, Present and Future - a welcome and new comprehensive work on anarchist communism,

this book seeks to rehabilitate the current of anarchist-communism. To make it better known and understood.

...a good substantial book, and much needed. Lucidly written, it provides a rich brew of engaging discussions of the 'Idea' (anarchist communism as a political philosophy), interesting vignettes of many individual anarchists, and a great historical account of the many anarchist communist organisations over the past 150 years...

(Brian Morris on *The Idea*)

isbn 9781739723712

£15.00

Available from:

<https://organiseanarchistsireland.com/shop/>

Get Involved: Help Build A Working Class Alternative.



Organise! is an anarcho-syndicalist group in Ireland which is affiliated to the International Worker's Association as 'friends of' section. We take inspiration from the self directed struggles of working-class people, and particularly the history and tradition of struggle epitomised by the IWA - the anarcho-syndicalist international. Our history goes back to the original formation of Organise! by the Ballymena and Antrim Anarchist Groups in 1985. We are a small, but growing, group of ordinary working class people who are fed up with being fucked about by the profit system, fed up with seeing our communities and workplaces torn apart by racism, patriarchy, nationalism and sectarianism, and sick of a greedy few getting rich off everyone else's backs.

We are actively working to promote solidarity in opposition to capitalism, the state, patriarchy and all other forms of oppression and hierarchy. The way we organise reflects the free society we want to create: one based on voluntary association, democratic participation and self-management.

Our members are workers, claimants, students, migrants, unemployed and other working-class people committed to building a libertarian communist union movement actively opposed to all forms of oppression and exploitation.

We want to improve everyday conditions for ourselves and other working class people, but we also struggle for the revolutionary transformation that can create a free and equal society, one based on mutual aid and co-operation. Sound crazy? Maybe it does, but in an era in which it is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism the continuation of the present system is even crazier...

The current system isn't working – ill-health, stress and overwork



affect more and more people while others are flung on the dole; for increasing amounts of workers it is precarity, zero hours contracts and the stress of being unable to plan or budget our lives; we live in a world of plentiful resources yet millions starve; some people make vast fortunes just because they own companies, land, property or natural resources, but those of us who create the wealth, work the land and build the properties are left struggling to survive; politicians tell us there's no money – not for wages, benefits or local amenities, but there's always plenty for war; both locally and globally the gap between the richest and the poorest sections of society has never been so great; instead of a war on poverty they've got a war on 'benefit fraud', while the same system that creates war, poverty and environmental destruction stigmatises, imprisons and deports the resultant refugees.

We don't think these things are inevitable or coincidental, we think they are related to capitalism – an economic system defined by wage slavery and the accumulation of profit out of other people's work. So we support all workers against their bosses in demanding higher wages and better conditions. We try to intervene practically to support workers engaged in disputes and are also active in our own workplaces and communities. Not only against exploitation but against the multiple oppressions faced by members of the working class in all our diversity.

But it's not just a question of trying to struggle by in a world of exploitation and oppression; we look to a future where workers control production and society in their own interests. And unlike some people who claim to oppose capitalism, we don't want to be a new set of leaders and we refuse to be led by anyone else. We advocate direct democracy in the workplace and through the commune in our communities – working in federation to ensure that the needs of all are met and that no-one is ever again in a position to oppress or exploit another human being.

If you are interested in these ideas, we'd encourage you to explore our website and consider getting involved.

We currently have members in Belfast, Cork, Derry, Dublin, Lisburn, Monaghan, Newry, Newtownabbey and Portadown and are building the organisation on the basis of active involvement and participation. We have a new Local in Formation in South Ulster. We aren't interested in meaningless 'paper' membership so you can't join by filling in an online form and bunging us a few quid. Every member is an active member.

To talk to us about joining get the ball rolling, check out our website at <https://organiseanarchistsireland.com> and send an email to: organiseasi@gmail.com

